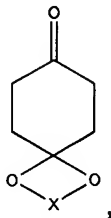
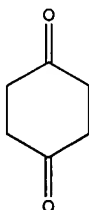


CLAIMS OF THE APPLICATION:

1. (currently amended) A process for preparing ~~preparation of~~ a monoketal compound of the structure



said process comprising reacting 1,4-cyclohexanedione of the structure

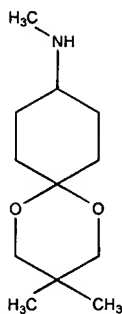


with a diol of the structure HO-X-OH in a halogenated organic solvent in the presence of an acid catalyst, wherein X is a substituted or unsubstituted ethylene or propylene.

2. (currently amended) The process of claim 1, wherein said diol is selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, neopentyl glycol, and ~~or~~ 1,3-propanediol.

3. (currently amended) The process of claim 2 4, wherein said diol is neopentyl glycol of the structure $\text{HOCH}_2\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$.

4. (currently amended) The process of claim 3, further comprising
a) converting said monoketal compound by reductive amination to an alkylamino ketal of the structure;



and

b) reacting said alkylamino ketal with 4-carboxamidophenylhydrazine to form frovatriptan.

5. (original) The process of claim 1, wherein said halogenated organic solvent is a C₁-C₃ haloalkane.

6. (original) The process of claim 5, wherein said C₁-C₃ haloalkane is selected from the group consisting of chloroform, dichloromethane, dichloroethane, carbon tetrachloride and mixtures thereof.

7. (currently amended) The process of claim 6 5, wherein said C₁-C₃ haloalkane is dichloromethane.

8. (currently amended) The process of claim 6 5, wherein said C₁-C₃ haloalkane is chloroform.

9. (currently amended) The process of claim 3 4, wherein the molar ratio of 1, 4-cyclohexanedione to neopentyl glycol 2, 2-dimethyl 1, 3-propanediol ranges from about 1:1 to about 1:4, respectively.

10. (currently amended) The process of claim 9 4, wherein the molar ratio of 1, 4-cyclohexanedione to neopentyl glycol 2, 2-dimethyl 1, 3-propanediol ranges from about 1:1 to about 1:2, respectively.

11. (currently amended) The process of claim 10 4, wherein the molar ratio of 1, 4-cyclohexanedione to neopentyl glycol 2, 2-dimethyl-1, 3-propanediol is about 1:1, respectively.

12. (currently amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the weight/volume ratio of 1, 4-cyclohexanedione to said halogenated organic solvent ranges from about 1:1 to about 1:20, respectively.

13. (currently amended) The process of claim 12 4, wherein the weight/volume ratio of 1, 4-cyclohexanedione to said halogenated organic solvent is about 1:8, respectively.

14. (original) The process of claim 1, wherein the reacting step includes dissolving 1, 4-cyclohexanedione and said diol in said halogenated organic solvent and adding said acid catalyst to initiate the reaction.

15. (original) The process of claim 1, wherein said acid catalyst is selected from the group consisting of hydrochloric acid, p-toluenesulfonic acid, sulfuric acid, fumaric acid, phthalic acid, oxalic acid and mixtures thereof.

16. (currently amended) The process of claim 15 4, wherein said acid catalyst is sulfuric acid.

17. (original) The process of claim 1, wherein said reaction is performed at a temperature of from about 25°C. to about 50°C.

18. (currently amended) The process of claim 17 4, wherein said reaction is performed at a temperature of from about 25°C. to about 30°C.

19. (original) The process of claim 1, further comprising removing said halogenated solvent to provide a crude residue; contacting said crude residue with an aliphatic or alicyclic hydrocarbon solvent; and removing solid impurities from the mixture.

20. (original) The process of claim 19, wherein said aliphatic or alicyclic hydrocarbon solvent is selected from the group consisting of petroleum ether, hexane, n-hexane, cyclohexane, n-heptane, cycloheptane and mixtures thereof.

21. (currently amended) The process of claim ~~20~~ 19, wherein said aliphatic or alicyclic hydrocarbon solvent is n-heptane.

22. (original) The process of claim 19, wherein the removal of by-product(s) is achieved by filtration.

23. (currently amended) The process of claim 22, further comprising cooling the ~~mixture of the~~ crude residue and the aliphatic or alicyclic hydrocarbon solvent to a temperature of from about 0°C. to about 25°C. before said filtration.

24. (currently amended) The process of claim 23, wherein said residue reaction ~~mass~~ is cooled to a temperature of about 0°C.-5°C.

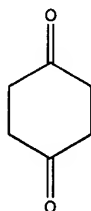
25. (currently amended) A process for preparing ~~the preparation of~~ 1, 4-cyclohexanedione mono-2, 2-dimethyl trimethylene ketal, said process comprising:

- a) reacting 1, 4-cyclohexanedione and neopentyl glycol in dichloromethane or chloroform in the presence of sulfuric acid at about 25°C.-50°C.;
- b) removing dichloromethane or chloroform to provide a crude residue;
- c) combining an aliphatic or alicyclic hydrocarbon solvent with said crude residue to form a mixture;
- d) cooling said mixture to a temperature of about 0°C.-5°C.; and

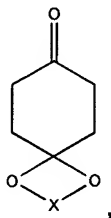
e) filtering the cooled mixture to remove undissolved impurities.

26. (new) A process for preparing a carbozole compound which comprises the steps of:

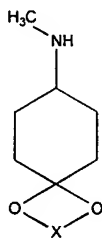
(a) reacting 1,4-cyclohexanedione of the structure



with a diol of the structure HO-X-OH in a halogenated organic solvent in the presence of an acid catalyst, wherein X is a substituted or unsubstituted ethylene or propylene, to form a monoketal compound of the structure:



b) converting the monoketal compound from step a) by reductive amination to an alkylamino ketal of the structure;



and

c) reacting the alkylamino ketal from step b) with 4-carboxamidophenylhydrazine to form the carbozole compound.

27. (new) The process of claim 26, wherein the diol is neopentyl glycol.